

# Chapter 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Vision

The City of Poulsbo Comprehensive Plan reflects the wide variety of individual and community desires, needs and aspirations, all within the context of the goals and requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). Poulsbo's heritage is a quality of life that is unique and highly valued by its people. The continued welfare of current and future residents is the paramount goal of the City of Poulsbo leaders. Looking forward, Poulsbo will continue to change, and change will present both opportunities and challenges. In the face of ~~that continued growth~~change, the city seeks to shape its future in ways that will maintain the quality of life that makes Poulsbo a special place to live, work, shop, and recreate. The Comprehensive Plan is a set of guidelines, goals, policies, and strategies to give growth and development both context and direction. To guide the city in its decisions is its vision of the future – which is shared by citizens and elected officials:

*Poulsbo is a vibrant community distinguished by its unique location on the shore of Liberty Bay, with access to natural beauty and urban amenities, and historic, small-town quaint character. Situated at the cross-roads of Puget Sound, Poulsbo recognizes that our past and future is connected to the natural resources and systems we depend on and enjoy, as well as the local and regional cultural and economic relationships that have developed over time. We envision a future in which our fiscal and environmental health are in balance and wisely stewarded. Poulsbo is an locally based economy inclusive community, aware of our connections to each other and respectful of our differences, with a strong sense of community, where civic groups, local government, families, and neighbors work collaboratively to continually maintain and improve high quality of life for all.*

This Vision Statement has guided development of this Comprehensive Plan and expresses citizens' wishes for the future in a general sense. It is the basis for all that follows. Further, Poulsbo's ~~seven-nine~~ guiding principles are integral to support Poulsbo's vision. These guiding principles are the foundation for the other goals and policies enumerated throughout the plan.

### **Poulsbo's Guiding Principles**

1. ~~Respect Poulsbo's identity, including~~ Weave the historic small-town feel of downtown and existing older neighborhoods with the energy and districts, while allowing vitality of a new areas to develop. growing and changing community.
2. Create opportunities for the market to provide a diversity of housing types, sizes, densities, and prices to serve all economic segments and household types.
3. Recognize, celebrate, and promote the cultural and social diversity of the city.
- ~~2.4.~~ Improve and sustain the beauty and health of the surrounding natural environment while providing for resiliency to impacts from climate change.
- ~~3.5.~~ Develop an economically sustainable balance of services, amenities, and infrastructure that accommodate anticipated levels of growth, protect public health and safety, and enhance the quality of life.
- ~~4~~ Promote community interaction by supporting gathering places, open spaces, and parks and recreation.
- ~~5~~ Support community members of all ages in their efforts to promote active lifestyle choices.

6. Provide citizens of all ages with diverse and accessible recreational and cultural opportunities, including active recreation and social and educational activities that change with trends in the city's demographics.
- 4.7. Connect the City, neighborhoods, and neighbors through complete streets designed to provide safe mobility for all users.
8. Support a business-friendly environment that retains small and locally owned businesses, attracts large internationally recognized businesses, expands the jobs and tax base, and encourages innovation and creative partnerships.
- 5.9. Establish processes that engage citizens and community partners and implement policies that reflect the desires and concerns of community members.

## ***Poulsbo's Community Key Goals***

Poulsbo's Community Key Goals provide specific refinements to the City's Vision Statement and Guiding Principles. Therefore, the following Key Goals are also presented at the beginning of each applicable Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and establish the policy framework for each chapter.

### ***LAND USE***

- Achieve a mix of commercial land uses that serve the needs of the City's residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Plan for residential development that compliments the built environment and the city's neighborhoods, while we change and grow.
- Plan and provide for public utilities and infrastructure to support the geographic and population growth of the city.
- Plan for mixed-use to encourage proximity and diversity in living and working options and decrease transportation challenges.

### ***COMMUNITY CHARACTER***

- Improve quality of life and create places where both adults and youth can live, work, learn, shop and play.
- Maintain the positive identifiable images and features that make Poulsbo memorable.
- Encourage community cohesion by providing a range of spaces and places for civic functions, such as public meetings, ceremonial events, and community festivals.
- Provide a well-designed, pedestrian friendly, and community oriented downtown center.
- Respect the character of the City's downtown, waterfront, and residential areas, while allowing for new development, expansion, and renovation that considers the scale and character of the area.
- Accommodate infill development and redevelopment that enhances the quality of city neighborhoods and business areas.

### ***TRANSPORTATION***

- Emphasize development of complete streets that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders regardless of age, ability or mode of transportation.
- Develop standards to improve the function, safety, and appearance of the city's street system.

- Maintain a consistent level of service on the city’s street system that is appropriate for existing and future growth to improve traffic flow.
- Participate in efforts to enhance the City’s connectivity to the region, including telecommuting.

### ***NATURAL ENVIRONMENT***

- Support standards that maintain or improve environmental quality.
- Preserve the City’s natural systems to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to maintain the integrity of the natural environment.
- Support regulation of activities in sensitive and hazardous areas to ensure high environmental quality and to avoid risks actual damage to life and property.
- Coordinate implementation of regulation and preservation efforts through the Comprehensive Plan, Critical Areas Ordinance, Shoreline Master Program, and other applicable City plans and regulations.

### ***CAPITAL FACILITIES***

- Proactively plan and invest for critical public facilities, such as water, storm water, sanitary sewers, streets, sidewalks, bike paths, parks, and other necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of existing population and future growth.
- Ensure that public facilities and services necessary to support development is adequate and available at the time of new development, without decreasing the adopted level of service.
- Provide the necessary public facilities identified through the Capital Facilities Plans within the City’s ability to fund or within the City’s authority to require others to pay, or fundable through strategic partnerships.

### ***HOUSING***

- Achieve a mix of housing types to meet the needs of owners and renters at various income levels and ages.
- Achieve a mix of housing types and densities while maintaining healthy neighborhoods and guide new housing development into appropriate areas.

### ***PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE***

- Develop active and passive parks, recreation programs and facilities, and an open space system that benefits citizens of all ages, incomes, and physical abilities.
- Establish, maintain, and preserve a network of trails, safe walkways, and open spaces throughout the Poulsbo community.
- Provide opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreational activities and team sports in City parks.

### ***ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

- Guide and enhance Poulsbo’s positive economic climate that attracts and supports business retention, expansion, and recruitment.
- Attract businesses and foster local entrepreneurship that serves Poulsbo residents, the greater North Kitsap community, and our valued tourists.
- Support the provision and expansion of education at all levels and training opportunities, to maintain and enhance a skilled workforce.

- Support economic development initiatives for Poulsbo residents to have access to family wage jobs, and employers have access to a talented workforce to assist in retaining and growing their businesses.
- Provide sufficient infrastructure and public facilities appropriate to support economic development.
- Encourage business activity that takes advantage of technology and promotes alternatives to commuting, including the increasing trend to work from home.
- Support a healthy and beautiful environment, vibrant and thriving community and high quality of life for all Poulsbo residents and businesses.